

Message Text

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ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DHA-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05 HEW-04 /068 W

-----129719 221249Z /43

R 220833Z AUG 77

FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4042

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, SHUM, RP

SUBJECT: OPPOSITIONIST MEETING ON HUMAN RIGHTS

1. OPPONENTS OF THE MARCOS REGIME HELD A CONVENTION ON HUMAN RIGHTS AUGUST 20 AT SAINT SCHOLASTICA'S COLLEGE IN DOWNTOWN MANILA. SPEAKERS INCLUDED FORMER SENATOR JOVITO SALONGA, FORMER FOREIGN SECRETARY SALVADOR P. LOPEZ, AND MRS. TRINIDAD HERRERA, PRESIDENT OF THE ZONE ONE TONDO ORGANIZATION (SEE MANILA 12868). ABOUT 700-1,000 PEOPLE, INCLUDING CATHOLIC AND PROTESTANT SOCIAL ACTIVISTS AS WELL AS FARMER, LABOR, STUDENT, AND URBAN POOR REPRESENTATIVES, ATTENDED THE SO-CALLED "1977 FILIPINO PEOPLE'S CONVENTION ON HUMAN RIGHTS." THEY UNANIMOUSLY PASSED RESOLUTIONS CONDEMNING TORTURE AND USE OF SAFE HOUSES; CALLING FOR FREE ELECTIONS, RESTORATION OF STUDENT GOVERNMENT IN THE UNIVERSITY, AND TERMINATION OF GOVERNMENT CONTROL OF THE MEDIA; AND SUPPORTING THE RIGHTS OF PEASANTS TO OWN THEIR LAND AND DECIDE THEIR OWN DESTINIES. THE "DELEGATES" ALSO APPROVED AN EIGHT-POINT PROGRAM ENTITLED "THE PEOPLE'S ALTERNATIVE" ADVOCATING NATIONAL INDEPENDENCE INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION, POLITICAL DEMOCRACY, AGRARIAN REFORM, INDUSTRIAL DEMOCRACY, NATIONALIST INDUSTRIALIZATION, PUBLIC WELFARE, AND PEOPLE'S CULTURE.

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2. THE CONVENTION WAS PEACEFUL. ITS ORGANIZERS REPORTEDLY WAITED UNTIL LAST MINUTE TO SELECT A TIME AND MEETING SITE IN ORDER TO AVOID GOVERNMENT OBSTRUCTION. NEVERTHELESS, SEVERAL PLAINCLOTHES GOVERNMENT AGENTS REPORTEDLY OBSERVED THE SPEECHES FROM SIDELINES.

3. THE MANILA PRESS MADE NO MENTION OF CONVENTION.

4. COMMENT: CONVENTION WAS TIMED TO COINCIDE WITH
WORLD PEACE THROUGH LAW CONFERENCE, WHICH OPENED IN
MANILA AUGUST 21. MAJOR GOAL OF ORGANIZERS TO TO PASS
COPIES OF COUNTER-CONVENTION RESOLUTIONS TO WPTLC
FOREIGN DELEGATES. SEVERAL OF CONVENTION'S ORGANIZERS
WHOM EMBOFFS TALKED TO FOLLOWING DAY SEEMED ELATED
OVER THEIR EFFORTS TO ORGANIZE UNITED FRONT OF
LEGITIMATE, NON-VIOLENT OPPONENTS OF THE MARCOS REGIME.
THEY SAID TURNOUT WAS UNEXPECTEDLY LARGE GIVEN FACT
CONVENTION WAS HELD DURING TORRENTIAL RAINSTORM.

5. WE ARE POUCHING COPIES OF RESOLUTIONS TO EA/PHL.
STULL

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: HUMAN RIGHTS, MEETINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 22-Aug-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
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Disposition Remarks:
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ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770838/aaaabflu.tel
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Litigation History:
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